

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

46th Year.

CHICAGO, ILL., FEB. 1, 1906

No. 5



APIARY OF J. E. JOHNSON, WILLIAMSFIELD, ILL.
(See page 98.)



HOME AND FAMILY OF J. E. JOHNSON.

THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

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IMPORTANT NOTICES

THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE of this Journal is \$1.00 a year, in the United States, Canada, and Mexico; all other countries in the Postal Union, 50 cents a year extra for postage. Sample copy free.

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We have been at this business for over 40 years. This means a great deal. Not only are we intimate with every phase of bee-keeping, but we have an accumulation of knowledge that is invaluable. All these years we have been learning what the bee-keeper really wants, and how to supply it down to the smallest detail. That means the goods you get bearing Root's trade-mark are the very latest and best known to date. All of these advantages cost you nothing over standard prices.

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Our motto has always been, "Not how much, but how good." By making our goods *the best* we have naturally become the largest manufacturers of bee-supplies in the world. The lumber, the workmanship, everything that enters into our goods is the best, and has passed the most exacting tests to prove it so.

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We believe in treating our customers right. Best goods and promptness are our watch-words. Courteous treatment to our customers is demanded from our employees and agents. Your interests are ours. Your welfare means ours. A satisfied customer is our aim, and we only ask a chance to prove what we say.

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TESTIMONIALS

We are always greatly pleased to see your new editions of your new catalog of Bee-Keepers' Supplies, etc. We shall certainly make ample mention of it in our paper. You are our best authority in regard to all matters of bee-keeping.

Yours very truly,

C. H. HOWARD, *Editor*,
Farm, Field & Fireside.

Dear Sirs:—The shipment of hives and bee-supplies which you sent me arrived in excellent condition, and every one who has seen them is delighted with the accuracy and precision of the workmanship of every detail, both of the goods and the manner in which the order was executed.

Yours very truly,

Cape Colony. **FREDERIC T. BIOLETTI.**

I have just now unpacked and examined the goods sent by you, and am greatly pleased with the lot.

Scottsville, Ariz.

W. H. GILL.

Gentlemen:—I am well pleased with your prompt way of doing business. The goods are just simply nice. Many thanks.

Yours truly,
JOHN D. A. FISHER.

I do not want anything set up, as I would rather set the hives up myself. Besides, it is a pleasure to put Root's hives and fixtures together.

Tiffin, Ohio. **JOHN L. FUNK.**

Your promptness and square dealing indeed make it a pleasure to do business with you, and I thank you.

Buffalo, N. Y. **HARRY H. LARKIN,**
Care Larkin Co.

My bill of bee-supplies reached its destination in due time. I am under obligations to you for the kindness, for a delay would have been a loss to me. Please accept my thanks.

Treadwell, Tenn. **W. W. WATERS, M. D.**

I desire to thank you for being so prompt in sending the sections I ordered from you. They came in less time than it takes to tell it.

Kent, Ohio. **L. G. REED.**

The consignment of bee-material received to-day. Your promptness in filling orders is remarkable, especially when the circumstances are considered. I am very well satisfied with the goods and your dealing. I take pleasure in having introduced "ROOT'S GOODS" into this neighborhood.

Fredericksburg, Iowa. **REV. WM. ENGLE.**

Our Catalog for 1906 is ready. Write for a copy.

THE A. I. ROOT COMPANY, MEDINA, OHIO.

BRANCHES: 144 E. Erie St., Chicago.

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AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL.

ESTABLISHED IN 1861 OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE INTERESTS OF HONEY-PRODUCERS.

(Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.)

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GEORGE W. YORK, Editor

CHICAGO, ILL., FEBRUARY 1, 1906

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Editorial Notes and Comments

Keep Hive-Entrances Clear

If your hives are so arranged that there is a space of some 2 inches under the bottom-bars, you are fortunate. If not, it may be worth while to consider a little whether you will not have them so arranged before another winter; and, in the meantime, don't forget occasionally to clean the dead bees out of the entrances and from under the bottom-bars by means of a hooked wire or other implement. The admission of fresh air is important, and, besides, it does bees no good to live over a cemetery.

Caucasian Bees in France

In a previous number of this Journal, commenting upon the conflicting views as to Caucasian bees, it was intimated that a possible explanation might be that more than one kind of Caucasians were in existence. The following letter from the well-known French queen-rearers, Giraud Brothers, is directly in point:

I am very much interested in your paper. In the American journals there is much said about Caucasian bees; but many do not know that there are two varieties, both very gentle. In the catalog of A. B. Postialko, the two varieties are specified as: *Apis mellifera caucasica aurea* and *Apis mellifera nigra argentea*. In my apiaries I have several of the variety *aurea*. It is a long distance to mail bees from Caucasus to the U. S. A. Like Prof. Benton, we are great admirers of Cyprians, the best honey-gatherers in the world. Mated with Italian or Carniolan drones, these bees are easily manipulated.

GIRAUD FRERES.

If anything is to be judged by the names, the *aurea* variety should be somewhat golden, and *nigra argentea* silver and black.

Dealing With Some Queen-Breeders.

We have received the following from a bee-keeper in Montana:

On page 33, "Pennsylvania" asks, "Do you think that queens that come through the mails are as good as those not caged?"

I, too, have had experience buying queens, and, as far as my experience goes, I can say that I have not found any honest queen-breeders. I hope that I have dealt with the only dishonest ones, and that all the rest are honest. Any one sending for queens is wholly at the mercy of the breeders, and if they are dishonest, and send us anything

they like, how are we going to improve our stock unless it be by accident?

I will mention two deals, and would give the names mighty quick, but I think my letter would find the waste-basket if I did:

In June, 1905, I sent for an Adel queen, and wrote with the order, "If you can't fill this order within 5 days return it." In August I got a queen, but the flow had stopped, so I can not say whether she layed "a sitting of eggs" or not.

In April my brother wrote to a fellow in Ohio, with whom he was slightly acquainted, and told him that we would take 6 Carniolan queens. Send him one, and that I would take the other 5. I wrote, "If you can't fill this order by May 10, return it." About May 20 I countermanded my order, and asked for my money. In June I got 5 queens—one old black one didn't survive the trip, the others were Italians and mongrels, and though the nurse-bees were black, those queens never produced a black bee for me. They "fell down" on all the points where the Carniolans are said to excel, unless it be gentleness—there were so few of them that they were quite harmless.

I have just had a letter from my brother. He writes, "My Carniolan was like yours—an Italian, and worthless at that."

L. A. SMITH.

We have heard of experiences similar to the above, but that does not prove that all queen-breeders are dishonest. It only proves that there are some who do business in a very careless way, and don't care whether or not they give satisfaction to their customers.

But, really, there is no excuse for not returning the money promptly, when instructed to do that if unable to send the queens ordered within a specified number of days.

We trust that the queen-breeders who advertise in the American Bee Journal will be very particular about obeying the orders of their customers, and also as to sending out the kind of queens they advertise. We don't feel called upon to help any dishonest or unbusiness-like queen-breeder or other dealer. Our subscribers must be treated right, or else our advertising columns will be closed to such advertisers who do otherwise.

Some Objects of Some Bee-Papers

It is natural that every bee-paper publisher should strive to secure as many subscribers as possible. The American Bee Journal confesses to such worthy and honorable desire.

It seems to be the effort of at least one leading bee-paper to induce more people to keep bees—to go into the business—and thus produce more honey to put on the market.

Another bee-paper urges more bee-keepers to keep more bees, and thus increase the output of honey annually.

What the American Bee Journal would like to see is this: The name of every bee-keeper now in the land on its list as a regular subscriber. There are perhaps plenty of bee-keepers in existence for the present. Then if all who

now have bees would learn to care for them more intelligently, and also develop, so far as possible, their local honey markets, there would be less honey thrown on the city markets, and so the price of honey could be better kept up.

This would result in greater benefit to all concerned, we believe. But holding out the idea that there is big money in bees for everybody, is hardly the proper thing. It can be overdone. We do not advise all and sundry to keep bees.

American Methods in Europe

While there has been some sneering on the part of bee-keepers on the Eastern Continent as to plans and practices of bee-keepers on this side, there have not been wanting those who have been able to see good in the notions of the Yankees. Prominent among these has been A. Strauli, pastor in Scherzingen (Thurgau, Switzerland), who has just launched a new bee-paper. His leaning toward American methods is not hidden in the name of his new paper, which is, "Die Europaeische Bienenzucht auf amerikanischer Grundlage"—European Bee-Culture on American Principles.

More Testimony on Caucasian Bees

The testimony so far leads to the conviction that there must be no little difference in Caucasians. In the American Bee-Keeper, that highly esteemed Canadian veteran, J. B. Hall, testifies that he obtained 2 colonies of Caucasians in May, 1904; that they were the gentlest bees he ever possessed, and the best winterers if given honey gathered by other bees to winter on. They started queen-cells in very large numbers, and capped their honey with concave instead of convex caps. As he is working for the production of honey, he says:

"I have no use for such blood in my apiaries, and have been weeding it out for the last 22 years."

In the same paper, Julius Hoffman says he imported Caucasians in 1880. They were very gentle, had very prolific queens, did little or no work on buckwheat, but he says "they are a very good bee for clover sections."

Both Fair and Independent

A bee-supply manufacturer asked a friend of ours why it was that the American Bee Journal published directions for home-made hives and other supplies, when the publishers of a certain other bee paper so adroitly avoided allowing such matter to appear in their columns.

Well, it is easily answered. The American Bee Journal is both fair and independent. It believes in allowing its subscribers and advertisers a fair chance in its columns; and, further, it is not run in the interest of its own bee-supply factory, for it hasn't any, and never has had one. Neither does it weaken the force of a contributor's published ideas by adding a footnote or comment, but allows each writer's opinions to stand upon their merits. We have been complimented on this latter practise of ours.

But it takes all kinds of bee-papers to suit all kinds of bee-keepers, so we have no quarrel with any of our contemporaries—not even with the ones that misrepresent us.

Our Wood Binder (or Holder) is made to take all the copies of the American Bee Journal for a year. It is sent by mail for 20 cents. Full directions accompany. The Bee Journals can be inserted as soon as they are received, and thus preserved for future reference. Or we will send it with the American Bee Journal a year—both for \$1.10. Address the office of the American Bee Journal.

The Premiums we offer are all well worth working for. Look at them in this copy of the American Bee Journal.



Miscellaneous News & Items

Convention Postponed.—The annual meeting of the Fillmore County Bee-Keepers' Association, which was to have been held at Preston, Minn., Jan. 17 and 18, has been postponed on account of the stormy weather, until Thursday and Friday, Feb. 8 and 9, at the same place. The same program will be carried out.

Copies of State Foul Brood Laws—The State of Minnesota is about to prepare a Foul Brood Bill to be presented at the next session of the Legislature. The bee-keepers' committee in charge of it desires to have a copy of the foul brood law now in force in every State from which to prepare their own bill. Will those who are able to do so, kindly send a copy of such foul brood law to Wm. Russell, 4810, 38th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. He will greatly appreciate the kindness, and at the same time those who will be kind enough to comply with this request will be aiding their fellow bee-keepers in Minnesota.

A. G. Woodman, of Grand Rapids, Mich., sent us a clipping referring to Henry Decker, an aged Ohio bee-keeper, who claims to have hatched hen's-eggs over a colony of bees. It is the same old story that has been going the rounds of the newspaper press for several years. This subject was discussed in the American Bee Journal a year or two ago, and it was finally decided that it is not a practical thing at all. It may work occasionally, but can not be depended upon. The best way is to get an incubator if you want to do anything in the poultry business. There are some good incubators advertised in this Journal. It is not a sure thing to depend upon a colony of bees to do the hatching.

Death of Mrs. S. T. Pettit.—We have received the following from Mr. Morley Pettit, telling of the death of his mother:

VILLA NOVA, ONT, Jan. 20, 1906.

DEAR FRIEND YORK:—I have to report the death of my mother, who slept peacefully away just at midnight Monday, Jan. 15. She had been ailing for a long time, and was confined to her bed almost constantly for over 6 months, during which time she suffered a great deal, but so patiently.

Of course, a person has only one mother, and feels that loss more keenly than any other; but all who knew her agree she was one of the most beautiful Christian characters ever met. Father is very, very lonely; the tie of over 50 years' close companionship and love is not easily broken.

Mother was in her 74th year, and father is in his 77th. Of the family, 6 of us were at her bedside; 2 in California and a sister in South Africa were unable to get home. I am the youngest, and there were 10 children originally—6 girls and 4 boys.

Yours truly,
MORLEY PETTIT.

Our sympathy is extended to the bereaved husband and family. A good mother—who can estimate her value and influence in the world? Her children can never get beyond her teachings and life.

Home and Apiary of J. E. Johnson.—Mr. Johnson has kindly furnished the following description of the pictures shown on the first page this week:

EDITOR YORK:—The second picture shows myself, wife, two daughters, and two little sons. The other daughter snapped the camera, so she is not in the picture.

The other picture shows our dwelling and honey-house, and all of the apiary but one row of hives.

Our house was paid for with the proceeds of 12 colonies

of bees and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of strawberries for two years, with about \$150 to spare, besides increasing from 12 to 66 colonies of bees. But, of course, those were good seasons. The season of 1905 was a poor one for honey here.

I find strawberries very profitable, and go well with bees, except that it keeps me jumping when swarming and strawberry picking come together.

I have sold as high as \$18.75 worth of strawberries from one day's picking. I hire the neighbors' children to help pick berries, and pay them by the quart. I also pay my own children the same price. I have no trouble to sell the berries, as I make a trip 5 or 6 miles with a buggy or spring-wagon load every afternoon when the berries are at their best. In this way I get lots of direct customers for berries, and I am able to furnish many of them with honey. My fruit-business helps me sell honey.

I also have a pear orchard, which is yielding well. I have 1100 pear-trees ranging from 3 to 7 years old. The Kieffer and Tyson trees bore abundantly the past year. The April freeze killed nearly all the blossoms on the Duchess, Wilder and Anjou pear-trees, so I got only a few from those varieties. I am still master of the blight situation.

A large pear-orchard helps the bees, as they blossom about 5 days earlier than the apple, and, by the way, the bees hum among the blossoms. I think the pear yields at least as well, if not better, than the apple.

My apiary at present contains 74 colonies—12 colonies in the cellar and the rest on the summer stands.

J. E. JOHNSON.

Mr. Johnson is one of the most successful bee-keepers in Illinois. He is also a frequent contributor to current bee-literature, and has opinions of his own, as well as a nice little family, evidently.

He has quite a number of businesses, which seem to combine in a way to keep himself and all his family employed. And, judging from the foregoing, none, aside from the bees, seem to be "working for nothing and boarding themselves."

Place to Be Robbed.—Petit Almanach des Abeilles gives the following as one of the signs at the entrance of a restaurant: "If you want good honey, don't go elsewhere to be robbed; enter here."



Contributed Special Articles

Wintering Bees on Solid Sealed Combs

BY J. L. BYER

A NICE position to be in, truly! Either keep quiet after being cornered by figures, or else in attempting to squirm out of the trap run the risk of making our genial Dr. Miller confess that "he did not know as much as he thought he did." Not a fair shake, Doctor. And before going any farther you must pledge yourself not to make any such manifestly absurd confession.

As to Mr. Dadant and myself trying to look good-natured over the matter, why, Doctor, it would be a libel to insinuate that it was possible to look or feel otherwise when debating any question with so courteous an opponent as Mr. D."

Of course, I had the best of Mr. Dadant, in that he failed to "produce the goods." He and the Doctor simply gave the "why and wherefore," while I can trot out actual experience of at least two of the most practical apiarists in Ontario to back up my position.

Dr. Miller has laid down a proposition something like this:

"Resolved, That bees in sealing cells leave about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch between adjoining combs; further,

"Resolved, That not sufficient bees can congregate in so small a space to keep one another warm. Therefore,

"Resolved, That all bees thus congregated during protracted cold weather will die."

I am reminded of the story of a good old Scotch Presbyterian, who, at a business meeting, said something like this:

"Resolved, That the people of God shall inherit the earth. Be it further

"Resolved, That we are the people."

But we are not told that he produced evidence in defense of his proposition; and just so Dr. Miller has not given evidence to substantiate his claims.

I am free to confess that previous to this discussion I had not gone to the trouble to question why bees have wintered so well on solid sealed combs, being quite content in feeling assured that they did winter well in that condition. However, for Dr. Miller's benefit, I will go into details a little.

In the first place, only the ordinary space is left between the frames and bottom-boards, and, on examination, I find that the bees are not utilizing that to any extent. I use unspaced hanging frames, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch spacing, but when giving solid combs of honey in the fall I space them wider apart, crowding them together early in the spring again. I suppose the Doctor will see the solution of the mystery in this confession; but hold hard!

When I used to feed solid with sugar syrup the combs were left with the ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch spacing, and, further, Mr. McEvoy uses a self-spacing rabbit, so it will be impossible for him to practice wide spacing; yet his bees don't die during cold spells of weather—on the contrary, they always come through the winter warm enough to pile up a great big surplus of honey.

While at the Ontario convention last November, I was talking to Mr. J. B. Hall again on this subject. Let me repeat a practical illustration he gave me there:

During the extraordinary cold winter of 1903-04, at one of Mr. Hall's yards he had quite a heavy loss—I forget just the percentage, but believe it was about 20 out of the 100 colonies there. Twenty of these colonies were wintered on solid sealed combs of the same size as Mr. Dadant uses. Not one of these 20 died, but, with the exception of 1 queenless, all were by all odds better in condition when the honey-flow came on than were those that survived after being wintered under "natural" conditions. As to how Mr. Hall spaces his combs I am not positive, but as he is very exact and particular, I have no doubt that he uses the orthodox $1\frac{1}{2}$ spacing. As to Mr. Dadant and myself "talking about two rather different things," I don't see it in that light. Mr. D. made the unqualified statement that "a colony will not winter well on combs that are entirely filled," saying nothing as to conditions.

One can hardly conceive of a colony filling all of the combs of the hive solid with honey, and wintering; from the fact that such a condition would be well-nigh impossible with a queen in the hive. I remember once of a strong colony being hived on a full set of combs during a heavy honey-flow; by some means the queen was lost and every comb was in this case filled solid. It is needless to say they did not winter; there were no bees left when the owner found the condition of affairs in October.

If the Doctor will pardon the suggestion, I will say that possibly he is made to think that the bees would die between the combs, from the well-known fact that a few isolated bees to one side of the cluster always perish. With the contracted hive the spaces are filled from one end of the hive to the other, and from division-board to the side of the hive—an entirely different condition of affairs.

In conclusion, as in the case of my reply to Mr. Dadant, I would ask Dr. Miller to test the matter, and then if he finds we are wrong, I, for one, will crawl off in the corner and attribute to "locality" the different results obtained here in Ontario.

Markham, Ont.



Time of Cellaring Bees

BY F. L. DAY

I N one of Dr. Miller's "Straws," in the Jan. 1st Gleanings, he mentions putting his bees into the cellar Nov. 29. That was the very day I put mine in, here in northern Minnesota. As a rule, I should expect to get them in earlier, but this time circumstances were not favorable for so doing.

In the first place, I use a combined stand and bottom-board, which I do not carry into the cellar. This makes it necessary to wait for a temperature as low as 15 to 20 degrees above zero. Even then it is necessary to confine the bees, for I have to move them about 25 rods to the cellar in a gravel hill-side. When a morning comes, which promises to be cold enough to suit me I go out about 6 a. m. to raise

up each hive-body from its bottom-board. I put inch blocks under the two front corners. In over one-half of the hives I find the bees clustered right down on these bottom-boards, but the cold draft soon drives them up into the hive.

Then about 8 o'clock I begin to move them. I place an extra hive-stand beside a hive, with a large gunny-sack laid on top. Then I raise the hive to be moved and place it on the sack. Next I tie the sack about the hive with a cord having a heavy piece of elastic in the middle. This generally keeps the bees in.

Other years I used a common wheelbarrow, and took only one hive at a time. But this time there was a foot of snow, which made it necessary to use a horse and light sled, taking 3 hives at a trip. This was easier than the wheelbarrow, but seemed to rouse up the bees just the same.

Of 30 hives put into the cellar, 29 were heavy with stores and strong in bees, to judge by the roar. The other one seemed light in both.

It is interesting in this connection to note that all the 29 strong colonies had young queens of the past season's rearing, while the one weak colony had at the last examination a clipped queen of the previous season. My queens live only one year, as a rule. In 4 years I have had but one that lived 2 years, and the result was not satisfactory in that case. The first season her colony gave me 210 pounds of extracted honey; the second season only 65 pounds. This was about the poorest colony yield of that second season. My queens are either lost at swarming-time or superseded soon after. This gives a good chance to requeen from the best stock, which I have been doing the past season, and hope to reap returns next year.

My bee-cellar, as now enlarged, is 16 feet long, 6 wide, and 6½ feet deep—just room for two rows of hives with a space in the middle. There are 2 pieces of 2x6 inch stuff for each row of hives to rest on. These are set edgewise about 11 inches apart, and fastened firmly together by cross-pieces. They are also blocked up 2 inches from the ground. There is room for 10 hives in each row, so that by putting in 3 or 4 tiers there would be room for 60 to 80 hives.

The cellar has a board roof just above ground. On this, after the bees are put in, I place a good layer of forest leaves, and then a load of wheat-straw. There is a trap-door for ventilation. I put several gunny-sacks over the opening, and a few sacks filled with leaves on top. I have a thermometer hanging down by a string so that I can ascertain the temperature at any time. I can usually keep it within a range of 5 degrees all winter. So far this winter (Jan. 10) there has been only 1 degree's variation. It has been either 42 or 43 degrees all the time. This cellar cost \$10 besides my own labor.

Other years my bees have had sugar syrup almost entirely for winter stores, and have come through finely. This winter they have nearly all honey. It remains to be seen if they will winter as well as formerly.

Detroit City, Minn.



Work in the Apiary for February

BY C. P. DADANT

THERE is less work in the apiary during this and the previous month than in any other month of the year.

Now is the time for the apiarist to prepare for another season by getting the hives, sections, etc., ready for summer use. If all goes well we should be prepared for a honey harvest when it comes. The apiarist is usually a farmer or a gardener, or fruit-grower, and he is kept busy with his different lines at the time when the bees store honey. Therefore, he will succeed best if he can save time during the winter.

A good sunny basement, with plenty of light, is an ideal place to nail hives or sections. The more prosperous apiarists will have a heated room in some part of their house where they can do all the work, including folding sections and fastening the comb foundation. Painting hives is also a good thing to attend to at this time. Old hives that are accidentally unoccupied by bees should be overhauled.

In painting hives, especially old ones, attention should be paid mainly to the corners and joints, as they are most apt to rot. The careless painter should be told what the good housekeeper tells a careless housemaid, "Clean the corners, and the middles will take care of themselves." So we will say to the hive painter, "Paint the angles and the joints, the middles will take care of themselves," for we paint hives fully as much to make them last as to make them look nice.

Good roofs, for sheltering the hives against the sun and rain, are made very cheaply from old dry goods boxes, which you may be able to secure from the general store in your town. A fair size dry goods box will make six flat roofs. If you have artistic taste, these roofs may be made ornamental. But if you are working for profit without regard to the esthetic, a flat roof will be sufficient to secure the hive against the inclemencies of the weather, the soaking of the rains and the drying and warping action of the hot summer sun.

A hive sheltered with the very roughest of roofs will last twice as long as one which is only painted and left to withstand the irregularities of the Siberian winters and African summers that are so often the portion of our so-called temperate countries.

The bees will need attention only if the weather becomes mild. A warm, sunny day, when the thermometer rises to 60 in the shade, is quite a boon to the bees, especially if the ground is free from snow. On such a day we must make sure that nothing will prevent or disturb their flight. If the hive-entrance should be clogged with dead bees they should be removed.

But, on the other hand, during the cold weather we must be very sure that nothing arouses our bees. Cattle or sheep in the bee-yard will disturb them from time to time. When the hive is jarred some of the bees leave the cluster to ascertain the cause of the disturbance, and they are often chilled before they can return. Thus the colony will slowly dwindle, and when spring comes it is too weak to recuperate.

So far (Jan. 10) we have had the finest winter that I have ever seen, and if it continues the bees will winter finely. But February is yet to come, and it is probably the most treacherous month in the year. Hamilton, Ill.



Convention Proceedings

Report of the Ontario Convention

[Continued from page 84.]

PRODUCTION OF COMB HONEY

In the production of comb honey colonies must be strong in *bees and brood* at the beginning of clover bloom. As soon as the first blossoms appear put on one super of clean or new sections filled with *thin super foundation* and with separators. As soon as this is about half filled, if well covered with bees, put another super under the first; when these are about filled, and prospects are still good for some days, put a third super on top of these. When well started in this last super, the first two will likely be ready to take off, after which, if prospects are good for a continued flow, put another under; if likely to close before both are finished, and bees need room, put it on top. Should there still be prospects of continued flow from clover or basswood, continue as before—put a third on top. I do not think it advisable to put more than 3 supers on at any one time.

Thus far it is assumed that bees have not swarmed. Where they swarm—and usually 50 to 75 percent will do so in producing comb honey—hive them, 2 and sometimes more, swarms together on 4 drawn combs or full sheets of foundation; fill up the balance of the hive with dummies on the old stand, first putting the supers from the old hive on the new, with a queen-excluder under. Turn the old hive around and set it a little way back. In the evening turn it around and set it along side the swarm on the right hand side. If increase is desired, move to a new stand the sixth day, and they will seldom swarm again during the season. In about 3 weeks examine them to see if they have a laying queen; if so, and quite strong in bees, and prospects are good for a fall flow, give them an extracting super with 4 or 5 combs; fill up the super with dummies, and they will, if the season is good, give quite a little surplus. Give the queen room below for brood.

Where increase is not desired, in about 2 weeks after the swarms are hived, fill up the hives with bees and brood from colonies that have swarmed within 7 days, first cutting out all queen-cells. If there are still more colonies than you want, double up by shaking off all the bees from any number of colonies into one with a young laying queen, until they are

strong in bees. You can then give them a super of sections or extracting combs, as you wish. Place the remaining combs of brood and honey in extracting supers over the colonies weakest in bees you have in the yard; the young bees hatching will strengthen them, and any honey stored in them, or already in, will come good for feeding in fall or spring.

As soon as all, or nearly all, the sections in each super are capped they should be removed from the hive, by raising up and putting a board with a bee-escape under for a few hours—not more than about 12 hours—when most of the bees will have gone out. The supers should then be carried into a room with one window, to which any remaining bees will fly, when the window may be opened and the bees will return to their homes. Any bits of comb on the bottom of the supers should be scraped off.

Now as to the care of comb honey: The supers should be piled up as high as convenient, say about 15 high, outside on the ground, with an empty super under. Place in a dish on top a few table spoonfuls of bisulphide of carbon. Cover up tight for about 12 hours, and it will be safe from any damage from the wax-moth.

The honey should then be carried into a *warm, dry* room and piled so the air can circulate through it for 2 or 3 weeks, or until you are ready to clean it up and pack for market.

R. LOWEY.

OUT-APIARIES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

In dealing with this question it might be considered by a great many bee-keepers as one in which they had little interest, as such a small percentage of those who keep bees ever manage out-yards. However, I think if we look a little closer into the matter we will find that it is of more or less importance in bee-keeping.

Only in rare instances do we find persons who are fortunate enough to have a locality, a strain of bees, or some superior system of management, which enables them to keep a sufficient number of colonies in one yard to allow them to be classed as specialists in bee-keeping, or large producers of honey. Bee-keepers who are almost solely depending upon their honey crop as their source of income, are desirous that their crop should be of such proportions as to furnish them ample funds for a comfortable living, and find that under ordinary conditions such a quantity of honey cannot be produced in one apiary alone. By distributing our colonies in yards away from our home-yard we are enabled to allow our bees a much larger area to gather nectar from without their having to travel great distances. By doing this we can keep a large number of colonies, devote all our time and study to this one work, be a specialist in this particular line, be always looking for better things in management, production, and marketing of honey, etc., and we are accomplishing for the bee-keeping world something which cannot be overlooked. Besides, we are turning into a sole occupation a profitable and pleasant work, which in a great many instances is regarded as a mere side-line.

From what I can learn from observation and otherwise, the fewer number of colonies kept in a given area the better the results secured. Taking this as a basis, we will have to determine to our own satisfaction what is going to be the limit of the number of colonies kept in one yard, according to our own management and locality. Speaking out of my own experience, I would suggest 100 good colonies in the spring, which might be increased to 150 during the season. To increase those numbers would mean that you reduce the yield per colony, increase the desire to swarm, and have a larger amount of bees and brood to sustain on the nectar of the field covered. To reduce the number means you reduce the income on some investments, viz., cost of establishing the yard, cost of maintaining the yard, attendance, etc.

In establishing out-apiaries the first consideration should be locality. The area to be covered by the bees should furnish ample forage without traveling territory covered by bees from other yards, which would place it about 3 miles from any other large yard. See that the territory has some honey-and-pollen yielding trees and shrubs for spring stimulating, as well as a full quota of basswood, clover, and perhaps a little buckwheat. A locality can best be judged after a practical test of two seasons, as sometimes a half mile materially affects the yield secured.

Next locate the site for the yard, which is an all-important matter. If possible choose a sheltered spot if bees are to be wintered there outdoors, and have it shady

if you desire trees. I prefer no live trees, but set out a half dozen tufty cedars by standing them in tiles set in the ground. You will see on your arrival in an instant if any swarms have clustered. One of our most satisfactory sites was in the center of a pasture-field about 15 rods from the highway.

A good, tight house, bee-proof and dry, is a necessity, of course, but as out-apiaries are not permanent institutions we can do very well with any means of shelter for supers, empty hives, extracting outfit, etc., that sheds rain and storm. A small tent can be made of cheap cotton to extract in, if the building does not exclude robber-bees, when the season arrives, for undoubtedly you will have considerable extracting to do after the main honey-flow is over, if you are an out-yard man. Another advantage the cotton tent has, it gets very warm with the rays of the sun, and honey that is very thick can be easily extracted in cool weather.

We like a good house at our own yards, where we can store the honey when it is extracted until we have time to remove it to the railway station. This saves handling, especially when we are busy; but if such is not available the honey can be taken home in 60-pound tins as it is extracted, and can be strained from the extractor after taking it home.

For wintering, if you do not wish to put the bees in cellars or repositories they can be successfully wintered outdoors, packed in suitable cases with 4 or 6 inches of good packing around the hives. Set the cases about 8 inches above the ground, and protect the yard with a tight fence on the west and north sides 6 feet high to break the force of the wind and keep out the snow.

We now come to the most important question of all, "managing the bees." In the fall and spring we find the bee-keeper (aided by what he can prepare during the winter months) is quite capable of attending to several apiaries, but when it comes to the busy summer season, when the bees swarm and gather honey, you will have to decide which plan of the many ways and means suits your individual tastes, your locality, and perhaps hives. Any plan that can be successfully applied to any yard can be applied to an out-yard.

Only, thoroughness is more essential in your work at the out-yard than at the home yard, because the out-yard will be, for a great part of the time, without any attention, and many little things might get the benefit of your watchfulness at home that the out-yard will not receive. The work must also be done systematically and seasonably, not putting off till to-morrow what you can do to-day.

DENIS NOLAN.

Mr. Saunders said he did not count on a shady or sheltered place for the bees. The wind would keep the bees in when they ought not to fly.

Mr. Deadman said when hoops of barrels are well driven, nails should be put behind them to keep them from sliding. As to wind, he preferred the bees sheltered and shaded. If the wind happens to blow the way the hives face, it does no good in keeping the bees in.

Mr. Holtermann considered shade a very important consideration in the prevention of swarming. As to barrels, one should get good barrels which have not been weather-beaten. Have cooper-tools and attend to them properly. With his inside strainer in the extractor the extracted strained honey runs through a rubber-hose directly into the barrel. Mr. Holtermann can, and does, manage with very little swarming, by using large hives, plenty of room, and ventilation in the super.

Mr. Sibbald—Glucose barrels when emptied are steamed inside to get out the last bit of glucose. This melts off the original wax and makes it advisable to wax them inside before filling with honey, to prevent the staves taking up honey.

Mr. McEvoy—When the barrels have not been steamed inside they are all right, but otherwise they should be waxed inside and painted outside.

Mr. Holtermann—Leakage is intensified by change of weather.

Mr. Pettit related his experience by which he learned to cooper barrels. They should be thoroughly dried, and the hoops driven with a good steel driver and 4-pound hammer. If the staves do not come well together at the ends loosen the hoops and flag the cracks with flags or even cotton cloth, then drive the hoops again. After the barrels have been filled and left in a hot room a week or so, drive the hoops again. If they should persist in leak-

ing between the staves, tamp them by driving a hard cord into the crack with a suitable tamping iron.

Mr. Saunders—To prevent swarming equalize brood, then when the swarming impulse starts take out three combs of brood, putting in two frames of foundation and one comb. In the fall I generally find these two-thirds filled with honey.

Mr. Holtermann—I don't succeed in having foundation put in in this way, filled with brood.

Mr. Pettit—Take them early and put in only one frame of foundation at a time.

Mr. Alpaugh—Add foundation at the outsides, but put drawn combs in the center.

Mr. Nolan—For winter packing use leaves. Try to prevent swarming with super-room and ventilation. Remove some brood as soon as cell-cups are started. Remove larval brood, not hatching brood.

Mr. Holtermann—As colonies come up to full strength draw brood from full colonies and give to the next strongest—not to the weakest. When all are built up don't make a whole lot of nuclei, but build up by degrees.

Mr. Byer—Add an extra brood-chamber to the strong ones.

Mr. Hershiser recommended what Mr. Holtermann had said at Niagara Falls. He would go further and take frames of eggs from weak colonies and give to the medium.

Mr. Holtermann—Increase the super-room until the hive equals the strength of the colony, holding the colony together till it reaches that point where the death-rate and birth-rate are equal. I favor not extracting until the end of the season.

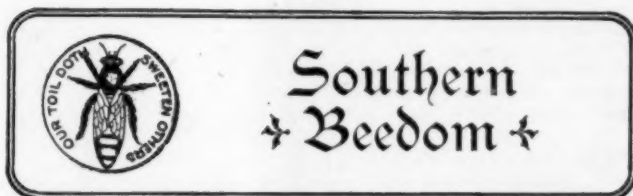
Mr. Dickenson thinks the second super should be taken off as soon as it is ready.

Mr. Armstrong—It is a good point to let them alone till the end of the season, then extract.

Mr. Lowey—I should leave the honey with the bees till it will "hair."

Mr. Bowen has not much trouble with swarming, running for extracted honey. He has a complete break between fruit-bloom and white clover.

(The End).



Southern Beedom

Conducted by LOUIS H. SCHOLL, New Braunfels, Tex.

Be Careful With Dead Colonies

That warning of R. F. Holtermann, on page 861, is a timely one. He calls attention to the care of dead colonies in the spring on account of the dangers of foul brood. As it may not have been heeded, I should call special attention to this matter, especially in "Southern Beedom." Fortunately, the Southern States have had very little trouble with the dreaded disease, *Bacillus alvei*, or commonly called foul brood. For many years the majority of the bee-keepers of Texas did not even pay any attention to articles on any such subject as foul brood, foul brood eradication, and foul brood laws. Recently, however, a number of very severe cases have made their appearance at different points, and the bee-keepers have been awakened. Foul brood received more attention, and protection from it was resorted to. A foul brood law for Texas was obtained, and put to work. As the disease has not spread to any extent, it can be controlled if properly taken in hand. The utmost care should be practiced by the bee-keepers, however, to keep it from spreading, and to prevent any further introduction into other localities.

In this connection our hints on taking care of dead colonies should be heeded. Especially the inexperienced or careless bee-keeper may not know the cause from which colonies died, or dead colonies may be left unnoticed in any apiary. These may be robbed out by other colonies in the neighborhood. If diseased with foul brood it is then carried to these, and thus the disease spreads. I know from my experience as foul brood inspector that just such things exist sometimes. Out of an apiary of 32 colonies at one place, 28 were diseased with foul brood, and 24 of these were

dead. They remained in the yard in this latter condition throughout the whole season, and were robbed out by other colonies. Is it a wonder, then, that foul brood is a dreaded scourge, especially since it takes only a single germ or a spore to infect a whole apiary, or the whole neighborhood?

Bee-keepers, if you are interested, first, in the welfare of your little workers, and, second, to the extent of having them make your "bread and butter," why don't you wake up and do your duty? Foul brood is to be dreaded in the least, and should not be tolerated. Texas has a foul brood law, and if the bee-keepers do their part foul brood can be exterminated. The other States in the South should fall in line—the bee-keepers of these should do their part also.

Why I Do Not Advocate Feeding Honey and Exchanging Honey-Combs

In previous articles the feeding of sugar syrup or sugar candy only has been given, no mention being made of feeding honey, or syrup made of honey, or of exchanging combs of honey from strong colonies to weaker or needy ones. My reason for this—and a reason I make a strong one—is that of the danger of spreading bee-diseases. In the hands of the experienced apiarist there may be little danger in this respect, still it is at a great risk if practiced even by the experienced sometimes. For the novice, or the careless, I would not advocate it. Several cases have come under my observation in recent years that have caused me to denounce the practice, *unless a person is absolutely certain that there is no danger.*

In an apiary of an experienced bee-keeper the majority of colonies needed feeding, and were fed by giving combs of honey from the supers of several stronger ones. Later it was discovered that one of these latter had foul brood—from where, is not known to this day. Any way, the result was that the disease broke out in about 20 of the others that had been fed honey from the foul-broody colony.

In another, honey was bought and syrup made from it was used for feeding. Foul brood broke out so violently the next season, and the apiary being for the time in the hands of incompetent help, the whole number of colonies in it had to be burned later. It is dangerous, therefore, to use honey from an unknown source, and by using a high grade of granulated sugar this danger is overcome.



Our Sister Bee-Keepers

Conducted by EMMA M. WILSON, Marengo, Ill.

A Canadian Sister's Report for 1905

On page 730 (1905) mention was made of the success of Miss Trevorrow, as reported in the Canadian Bee Journal, with the request that Editor Craig would give us a little more light on the subject. This he has kindly done in the following:

Owing to our visit to Meadowvale being somewhat hurried, we missed much information that we would like to have had regarding Miss Trevorrow's management of her bees, but which we hope she will favor this Journal with in the near future. We regret to learn that just at present it is necessary for her to undergo a course of treatment for rheumatism at the Dr. Walters' Sanitarium, from where she kindly sends us the following in reply to Miss Wilson's enquiry:

"MR. EDITOR:—When I read the comment, in the American Bee Journal's latest issue, upon the reference you had made to my bee-keeping in the Canadian Bee Journal, it struck me as possible that you might not be possessed of the needed information to reply satisfactorily to the interested enquiries of our American sister. I, therefore, submit the following data, trusting that it may be of use to you in granting her reasonable request:

"I had 33 colonies of bees last spring, all in good condition. From these I extracted 4400 pounds of white honey, and about 300 pounds of dark honey. (We have no very

dark honey in this vicinity.) I had 90 sections of No. 1 comb honey, and about the same number partly-filled. I have not made a success of comb honey yet.

"I might state here, in anticipation of a very pertinent question in regard to fall feeding, that I fed 817 pounds of sugar this fall, the number of colonies having increased to 49; and also state in regard to locality that when this yard consisted of 5 first-class colonies they yielded 928 pounds of extracted honey, and increased the number of colonies to 15. Other apiaries are from 3 to 5 miles distant."

M. B. TREVORROW.

Feeding Bees in Winter—Getting Queens to Laying After Swarming

My bees have not been profitable for several years, and I want to ask your advice about a scheme I have thought of. In this country they fly many, many days—sometimes for a week, or even two, continuously, during the winter—when it is warm enough for them to be out. I judge from my reading that this takes much more food than in a climate where they stay quietly all winter. I fear, as this winter has been so far unusually mild, and there is of course nothing for them to gather, that perhaps they don't have enough. Is it wise to feed during the winter? If so, how?

Each February I made a gallon of syrup at a time and put in a shallow zinc pan in the sun. On this I put a thin board full of holes a quarter of an inch wide, the board large enough to float on the syrup and come almost to the edge of the pan. They used it up very speedily. It was at quite a distance from the hives, so they all used it together. As far as I can judge, it worked all right. Please tell me if there is a better way.

My sole dependence for honey here is alfalfa. We are greatly troubled with grasshoppers that eat off the bloom, but I have always had some beautiful honey from the first crop which blooms from the 1st to the middle of May. My bees then are about ready to swarm, so I get only a part of which I might otherwise have. I have tried destroying queen-cells to delay swarming, but not very successfully. Could I hurry things up by stimulative feeding so that swarming would be over by May 1? Our springs are not very early. Fruit-bloom comes from April 1 to the middle—sometimes not until the last, because though we have warm, almost summer days, we are apt to have a late frost even up to May 1, and there is nothing else for them to build up on. If you think it practical to take them through swarming so that I may take advantage of this first alfalfa crop by feeding them, will you kindly submit a plan for me? and would you advise me trying it on all my 12 colonies, or only a few of them?

Another difficulty seems to be in the getting to work of the young queens after swarming. For 3 years I have had to buy some new queens in July, finding that though work seems to start well, suddenly the queen disappears. Have you any solution to offer for that difficulty? I shall be very grateful for your answers, which I know from experience will be helpful.

(MISS) HELEN PERRY.

Englewood, Kan., Jan. 5.

No, it is not wise to feed during winter, but it is better than to let the bees starve. Your plan of feeding was doing for the bees the very thing you wished to avoid, as it was stimulating them to flying and brood-rearing.

If bees must be fed during winter it is better to give them all they will need at one time, and it is better to feed on or in the hive. As you have weather warm enough for them to take the feed in the open, there ought to be no trouble in getting them to take it in a Miller feeder, or any other feeder that may be preferred.

Whether anything can be done to hurry up swarming depends. You say fruit blooms in April. If there is an utter dearth before fruit-bloom, or between fruit-bloom and alfalfa, and at the same time the weather is favorable for daily flight, then feed given almost any way, every day or every other day, may make quite a difference in the time of swarming.

Another thing you can do: Two or three weeks before you would like to have them swarm, take frames of sealed brood from the weaker ones and give to the stronger, thus making them so populous that they will swarm earlier. In this way you can at least get part of them to swarm earlier. If they still fail to swarm early enough to suit you, you can take matters into your own hands by shaking swarms; that is, taking away all brood from the colony and giving it empty combs, foundation or starters.

Even if you let the bees alone, and they swarm when alfalfa is on, you can still manage so you will have a fair yield. When the bees swarm set the swarm on the old stand. Place the old colony close beside it. In a week put the old colony on a new stand, and that will throw all the flying force into the swarm, and from that you will get your surplus honey.

The disappearance of young queens after swarming is probably due to loss during the wedding flight. There is nothing to do about it except to help the queens locate their own hives. Trees, vines, even a fence-post, will help them mark their own home.



Mr. Hasty's Afterthoughts

The "Old Reliable" as seen through New and Unreliable Glasses.
By E. E. Hasty, Sta. B. Rural, Toledo, Ohio.

PREVENTING HONEY GRANULATING BY HEATING.

As to the scheme to prevent granulation by heating extracted honey in the solar wax-extractor, my first thought is that honey that I have seen come out of the solar has always been pretty black and strong. It is possible, however, that clean, good honey, *perfectly free from beeswax*, might not be harmed by the treatment. Ought not to take a great while to find out. Pretty certain that contact with melted beeswax is a bad thing, whether it does all the mischief or not. Page 877.

NO BEE-BOOK A BEE-KEEPER'S BIBLE.

All right to read Bible—and a bee-book, if the reader does not get them mixed. I fear we have no bee-book yet quite entitled to stand as Bee-Keeper's Bible. Glad to feel that we have several that can "file a claim." Page 879.

HONEY ABSENT FROM HOTEL TABLES.

I think most of us will share the surprise of Prof. Cook, to find that in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany almost no hotels set honey before the guest, not even when he asks for it. All same we uns! 'Spects the cause is the same on both sides of the pond. Retail price has been kept out of the reach of common folks; and the habit of common folks has become in this case the habit of all. But no plan to remedy things by going back along that line will give universal satisfaction. Some of the brethren will kick pretty lively at Prof. Cook's proposed prices; but nevertheless I guess he is right. No kick from me. I sell a large share of my (not very large) crops direct to consumers, and let them have best extracted at 7 cents and best comb for 14. And when the brethren try to buy me clean out and put a stop to it I won't let 'em. As a result, people in my locality eat honey.

That only one person in Britain relies wholly on bee-products for support will be a still greater surprise, I imagine. Page 880.

TO CELLAR OR NOT TO CELLAR BEES.

Curved is the line of beauty; straight is the line of duty—and 40 degrees is the line of keep your bees out of the cellar. I think C. P. Dadant has located said line about as well as it can be located. Page 880.

SOME EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS—LONGEVITY OF BEES.

Also our professors seem to range themselves in the two classes of Has-dones and Is-doings. Prof. Scholl, of Texas, seems to threaten taking the place of chief of the Is-doings. Has an experimental program of 10 items, and 6 more up his sleeve. Somehow, I take special interest in the effort to determine comparative length of life as lived by the 6 or 7 different kinds of bees now "on the carpet." Not so important as some things; but it strikes me as likely to result in something definite and settled. Too often our investigations result merely in a chronic difference of opinion. This one will also if we "—Don't—Watch—Out." I take it that Prof. Scholl is quite capable of watching out, and hardly needs my reminders. Besides the things he mentions, it is in the highest degree necessary that two races tested side and side should be *in equal degrees of activity*; and this is best attained by a good honey-flow. To illustrate what I

mean, if we test the life-terms of Italians beside blacks in August, when the honey-flow is very poor, but not *entirely* lacking, we may catch the Italians in nearly an average state of activity, and the blacks in a semi-dormant condition. The result of this would be that the blacks would live very much the longer just then, and the conclusions drawn from the experiment would be enormously false. Page 882.

LANGSTROTH HIVES AND OTHERS.

Calling all frame hives after Langstroth (as Mr. Doolittle seems to suggest on page 881) has pretty good logic to support it, and is no more than justice to our grand old man—but, but, Language has laws of its own which mostly will conquer and enforce themselves in the end. The terms "Langstroth frame" and "Langstroth hive" are pretty well settled already, and are very unlikely to be changed much. Our multitudinous frame-hives seem to range themselves mostly in three families—the Langstroths (which are intermediate in character), the square-frame hives, and the shallow-frame hives. If we make room for a fourth family it will probably be the "barns"—hives with extra-big frames, and plenty of them, but not altogether square.



Canadian Beedom

Conducted by MORLEY PETTIT, Villa Nova, Ont.

Barrels for Honey

A little discussion on honey-barrels at the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Convention last November suggested to me the idea that some of the Canadian readers and others would be interested in my experience. The kind almost universally used in this country are emptied glucose barrels, obtained from biscuit and confectionery factories. They are made of comparatively soft wood, and contain from 600 to 700 pounds. The confectioners drain them, and sometimes steam them out to get the last bit of contents, then store them in basement, shed, or yard, ready for the buyer who gets them at a comparatively low price, and assumes most of the responsibility for their care.

If storage is to be had at home, it is best to get them there as soon as possible, and have them ready early for the honey season. Bung plugs can be got at any well-ordered planing mill at a merely nominal price. No one can afford to make these with a pocket-knife while there are turning-lathes in the land.

Plug the bungs tightly to keep out dust, and see that the barrel is in every other way ready for the honey. First plug the air-hole which the factory-man made with a chisel to let the glucose run freely from the bung. Be sure there is not more than one air-hole, because if you do not find all leaks before the honey is in the barrel you will afterward.

Now for tightening the hoops. Having set the barrel on end, remove the first hoop, and make it smooth inside by flattening back with a hammer the points which were set into the stave with a punch. I find a hoop that is smooth inside is easy to drive, and never slips back enough to bother. Replace this hoop and fix the others the same in succession.

For driving hoops we use a steel driver with straight handle 10 inches long. It is made to fit the edge of a hoop and hardened there, but just soft enough on the upper end so a steel hammer will not batter it. The hammer weighs 3½ pounds. An ordinary carpenter's hammer is entirely too light for the job. I always wear a leather glove on the left hand that holds the driver, then hammer the hoops till they fairly "sing." I have never bursted a hoop yet, but have done a great deal towards stopping leaks. Sometimes by rough handling of empties, staves get cracked across the middle; a double thickness of cotton with a piece of tin well tacked over such will remove danger of leakage.

Barrels for honey should be as dry as possible, for instead of taking moisture from the honey the staves give up moisture to the honey and shrink, if possible. They should therefore be stored in a dry place, and the hoops well driven. I remember hearing N. E. France say once that there was always a racket in his store-rooms on rainy days—the boys were driving hoops on the barrels. On this account the

hoops should be tested a few days after the barrels are filled. I have had hoops that were tight before filling drive a half inch or more. This is always worse where the barrels have been left out in the weather. It is very injurious to them to get wet. The staves swell, and, being held by the iron hoops, something has to give so the cell-structure of the wood is crushed and the elasticity is gone out of it. It is very hard, after that, to keep them from leaking.

I had all kinds of trouble with barrels like that last summer. They had been left out in the weather a great deal, and it seemed impossible to stop their leaking. The trouble was next to the heads. I could not draw the ends of the staves together till I hit upon a plan which, no doubt, a cooper would have known beforehand. I drove the hoops tight to see which cracks would not come together, marked those, loosened up the hoops, and put dried flags, and sometimes cotton rags, in those cracks; then drove the hoops tight. Where barrels persisted in leaking, a hard cord was driven into the crack with a hammer and blunt chisel.

In my estimation, barrels of honey should be kept by the producer in as hot and dry a place as they are likely to get into after they leave his hands, and hoops all tested with heavy hammer just before shipping, unless the honey is granulated.

Various Weather Conditions in Canada

We notice the revival in the American Bee Journal of the department entitled "Canadian Beedom." This time it is being conducted by our friend from Villa Nova, who is, by the way, I believe, the only "M.P." in our ranks. In a recent issue we find some complaint as to weather conditions this fall in Ontario; no chance for bees to have a cleansing flight before going into the cellar, etc. Surmise that friend P— took his bees into the cellar a few days too soon if his locality was anything like in York County during the last few days of November, when bees here had a thorough flight. Since then the weather has been quite mild most of the time, and the bees have had more flights. These are possibly conducive to best wintering. However, the chances are that they will be kept pretty quiet for the next two months.—YORK COUNTY BEE-KEEPER.

[Weather here, and, we presume, at Villa Nova, while fine and mild for the season, has not been warm enough for anything like a general flight. This old Ontario does give a great variety of climate. We have had scarcely any snow here so far this winter. Fifteen miles north they are having good sleighing.—EDITOR.]—Canadian Bee Journal.

Thanks, Mr. Y. C. B.-K. Of course, we should not overlook the Hon. Nelson Monteith, M. P., bee-keeper, fruit-grower, and Minister of Agriculture, though he has been a member for a comparatively short time, whereas the Villa Nova man has borne the title for about 30 years.

As to weather, the last few days have broken all records, I think. Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Jan. 20, 21, 22, the temperature ranged between 50 and 58 degrees, Fahr., with south breeze and sunshine. The outdoor winterers are having their innings this year.

Prejudice Against Bees on Alfalfa

"York County Bee-Keeper," speaking of the cattlemen's prejudice in Nevada against bees working on their alfalfa, says, "Happily, at present anyway, we have nothing to fear in Ontario from prejudice of this kind."

Don't be too sure, Mr. "York County Bee-Keeper." I could take you to a neighborhood in Norfolk county where neighbors told a woman she would lose 200 bushels from her yield of buckwheat by having bees work on it. When the buckwheat was ripening, however, she was satisfied with her crop.

The prejudice against bees on some crops which they actually benefit is alarming, and shows a wide field for mission work by Farmers' Institute speakers.

Shallow vs. Deep Supers

Wm. L. Cooper, in the Canadian Bee Journal, speaking of shallow vs. deep supers, says in defense of the former:

The deep super is far the best for general purposes, but the other has its uses, and I claim for it the following advantages:

1. It is best for a weak colony in a rapid flow.
2. It is best for any colony in a very light flow.
3. It is most useful to induce bees to work in sections.
4. It is good to use in spring when a colony has about filled the lower story with brood and honey. If a full super be given at this time the strain of keeping the double story warm at nights is very severe.



Doctor Miller's Question Box

Send questions either to the office of the American Bee Journal,
or to Dr. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.

Dr. Miller does not answer Questions by mail.

Making Increase—Queen-Excluders and Comb Honey— Fastening Full Sheets of Foundation in Sections

Our main flow here is from buckwheat, and is very short, often lasting but a few days. I have some bees in 8-frame Gallup hives, and want to make all the increase I can up to the time buckwheat comes into bloom (about Aug. 1), and put the increase into dovetail hives, but leave the original colonies in the Gallup hives, to save the expense of buying so many hives, then turn the whole force to storing buckwheat honey, having all full colonies by Aug. 1.

1. What would be your plan for making the increase?

2. Is it necessary to use queen-excluders with dovetailed hives in producing comb honey (I run for comb honey exclusively)? Would you use bound, unbound, or wood-and-zinc?

3. What is your method of fastening full sheets all around in the sections? I have had some trouble with them coming loose when fastened only at the top with a Parker fastener, and using bottom starters. PENNSYLVANIA.

ANSWERS.—1. It isn't easy to say what will be the best plan of increase for you. One's previous plans and experiences have much to do with it. If your increase up to this date has been entirely by natural swarming, that may be the best now. But in that case try to get your surplus honey chiefly from the swarms. Remember that 50,000 bees in one hive will store more than 2 colonies of 25,000 each.

So when a colony swarms, put the swarm on the old stand, and set the old colony as close as you can beside it. Then a week later move the old colony to a new stand some distance away. That will make the swarm a rouser, and it will do fine work for you if there is anything to be done. The old colony will do little or nothing in supers, but having a young queen it ought to be a fine colony for the ensuing season. You will see that will leave all the old colonies in the Gallup hives, and the swarms in the new kind. If you do not want to wait for natural swarms, you can practise shaking swarms. That is, set an empty hive on the old stand and shake bees into it, leaving just enough bees in the old hive to keep the brood from chilling, setting it on a new stand and letting it rear a queen; although it will be much better to give it a queen or a ripe queen-cell.

2. I wouldn't use excluders for comb honey.

3. At our house we use the Daisy fastener, which has a hot metal plate. That melts the edge of the foundation, fastening it more securely than by mere pressure, and the work is a good deal easier.

Feeding Bees in Early Spring

I have 65 colonies of bees which I think I will have to feed in the spring. I think of putting a piece of muslin over the frames and an oilcloth and the cover over it, and then raise the oilcloth and cover when pouring the syrup over the muslin, and cover up again. I can feed them in a short time in this way.

The syrup will be made of half honey and sugar-water. Will this daub the bees up too much? When the muslin is on the hives a few days there will be little holes in it so the syrup will run through quite freely. Will it hurt the bees any to have the syrup run on them and be daubed up somewhat with it. WISCONSIN.

ANSWER.—It depends upon how early in the spring you operate. If after it is warm enough for bees to fly freely it will be all right; the bees will clean each other if they get daubed; but if you attempt it at a time when too cool for bees to be on the move, it would be likely to do more harm than good.

Reports and Experiences

Good Season For Bees

One year ago I put 117 colonies into winter quarters. I lost one last spring with paralysis. They did not increase any the past season. I obtained 12,000 pounds of honey, over one-half of it comb honey in one-pound sections, and the balance extracted. It is about all sold at prices ranging from 13 to 15 cents. I have sold about \$1200 worth.

Bees are in good condition for winter, and heavy with honey. B. W. PECK.

Dorset, Ohio, Dec. 30, 1905.

Bees Did Poorly in 1905

Bees did poorly last year. We started in the spring with 24 colonies; had one swarm, and got about 500 pounds of extracted honey. They were so weak this fall that we doubled them down to 16 colonies. Nearly half of the bees throughout the surrounding country are already dead. We have had good weather this winter; no snow, and the ground is dry and dusty—poor prospect for clover.

RICHARD CHINN.

Concord, Neb., Dec. 28, 1905.

Light and Heavy Weight Sections

I have my bees all packed well for winter. Some one stole 3 sections of honey off the hives, as I had 1 super left on last week. It was done while we were out selling honey.

There is quite a good deal written about the weight of section honey. I have many different kinds, some produced with separators and others with no separators. Many

sections will weigh 19 or 20 ounces each, while some weigh 14 or 15 ounces. Perhaps 10 out of 28 will weigh 1 pound. My wife and I go out with the horse and buggy and sometimes sell 30 or 40 sections a trip. When selling, I weigh every section, and then those that do not come close to a pound I put with those that weigh over a pound, and in this way a light one and a heavy one will weigh 2 pounds, which I sell for 25 cents; or 1 pound for 13 cents. We sell all our honey around town. Belmont, N. Y. GEO. HODGES.

Poor Season for Bees

The season of 1905 was rather poor for bees in this part of the State. I got 700 pounds of comb honey from 36 colonies, spring count. The first of the season was cold and wet, then the dry weather cut off the fall flow. I put my bees into a dry cellar under the dwelling house Dec. 1, in medium condition.

I consider the American Bee Journal one of the best of its kind of literature. I read it with pleasure and profit every week. JOHN CLINE.

Darlington, Wis., Dec. 15, 1905.

Sweet Clover Honey

I have been watching various statements by different people regarding sweet clover; some do not think that it yields well. Nevertheless, I got about 20 pounds per colony from it, and neighbor bee-keepers averaged about the same this year, and it left our bees in very good shape for winter.

The reason we happened to have such a plenty of sweet clover is because some one planted it along the banks of the Grand river, and the river distributed the seed everywhere.

Well, as to taste of honey. Some have said it was poor and thin, and had a peculiar flavor; also an odd smell of its own. That is all true, but the trouble is that that honey was extracted too soon. One of my neighbors had a little of that kind of experience this year; he

got the odd flavor and the smell, while another neighbor farther away, and myself, left our honey on the hives some weeks longer than our friend did, and got A No. 1 honey, clear and heavy, with a first class taste to it, and no smell whatever.

Another thing about this plant is, it furnishes supplies for the bees until it is almost too cold for them to fly, where cattle get at it and keep it eaten down somewhat.

Preston, Ont., Jan. 2, W. D. HARRIS.

Foot's Swarm-Hiving Box

I want to thank Mr. Hasty for his criticism of my "Swarm-Taking Box and Pole" (page 883). But he (rather Hasty-ly, I think) jumps at a conclusion and lands on the wrong side of the fence when he votes the "whole scheme a failure and a nuisance." After repeated trials I have decided that "that style of doings" is a complete success. He is very decidedly still on the wrong side of the fence when he intimates that I "waste time hiving a part of a swarm." I have not kept bees, with very good success, for 20 years to be satisfied without securing the "whole thing." But I see that I will have to reverse the order of things and make a short story long in order for himself and "some of the brethren" to understand how I manage the affair.

In the first place, I have a slim, light pole about 18 feet long, to the top of which a strong iron hook is securely fastened to operate as a shaker. When a swarm first begins to cluster, and I think it is necessary to use this pole, I hang it on the limb close to the cluster, then get the swarm-catcher, stand the pole under the cluster, steady it with one hand, run the box to the top and fasten it there by winding the cord around the bracket at the bottom. Then, with the other hand, I take hold of the "shaker" and shake the bees from the limb into the box. If a few persist in going back to the limb, I repeat the shaking until all of them cluster in, or on, the



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box, when they are easily lowered to the ground and carried to the hive.

I don't take a spade, dig a hole in the ground and set the pole "stationary" as I would a fence-post, but handle as described above.

A. F. FOOTE.

Riceville, Iowa, Jan. 1.

Retailing Honey

I would report a fairly successful year with the bees, and tender my thanks to the American Bee Journal for its valuable assistance.

I wish to urge the pushing of the matter of advancing the price of retailed comb honey. I know from experience that 25 cents per section is as easily obtained as 15 cents, provided, of course, that the honey is first-class. My second-grade honey, which weighs 12 to 14 ounces, and is fully as good as the average "farmer's honey," sells harder at 20 cents than the first-grade at 25 cents. I began years ago to sell at 20 cents, and so speak from experience.

But don't forget the matter of quality. Three times I have bought decent-looking "farmer's honey" when short myself, but in every case I was obliged to take the honey back and refund the money, and so I shall never try it again. It is not a fair price, but a poor article, that makes a good customer kick.

Every 25-cent section bears this stamp: "Byfield." And the guarantee is followed up to the limit; any defect being good for the money back on sight; but so far it has never happened with honey from my own hives.

I wish we could hear again from the correspondent who advanced the theory of the more rapid flight of black drones. I have reason to believe there may be something in it.

GEORGE W. ADAMS.

Rowley, Mass., Jan. 12.

Light and Heavy Weight Sections

The honey crop was rather disappointing last season in Prowers and Bent counties; in fact, the poorest I am told for the past 17 years. The maximum returns were about 40 to 50 pounds per colony. The largest returns came from apiaries worked for extracted and comb honey.

JOHN S. SEMMENS.

Lamar, Colo., Dec. 30, 1905.

Two Queens in a Hive

Dr. Bohrer, of Kansas, reported the case of two queens in the hive at the same time. I bought a fine queen in 1902, that I used as a breeder. As I was getting brood from her last July, I found a capped queen-cell, so I kept watch of them. They lived together, each laying eggs. I still think they are together, for I looked to-day (Nov. 19), and

found them both together; yet if they winter together I shall take the old queen out next spring and give her a nucleus to breed from. She has not had any wings in three years, as the bees gnawed them off, so she is easily known.

J. G. GOODNER.

Big Springs, Tenn.

Thinks This Journal Necessary

I am going out of the bee-business and so will not need the American Bee Journal any longer. But I will send you a new subscriber in my place. The Journal has been a great help to me, and I think it a necessary companion to all interested in the bee-business.

Ridge Farm, Ill.

ISAAC VAUGHT.

A Valuable Kink in Wiring

That little kink of wiring frames, given by Adrian Getaz, will more than pay for the price of the American Bee Journal for 1906. Please find money order enclosed for \$1.00 to extend my subscription.

F. JAY LEWIS.

Oak Park, Calif.

Rain in Southern California

We have had a nice rain. Prospects are very bright for the honey crop in San Diego county this year. G. F. MERRIAM & SON.

San Marcos, Calif.

Bees All Alive in January

My 112 colonies of bees all showed up alive to-day. All but a very few colonies flew strongly and long. The general look and appearance is also hopeful.

E. E. HASTY.

Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 20.

Honey in California, Etc.

EDITOR YORK:—For many years I have read the writings of Prof. Cook in the columns of the American Bee Journal, and felt very much disappointed on my recent visit to Southern California not to be able to see him at his home. He was absent, as he was in Europe at the time. However, I met many bee-keepers in that lovely land of fruit and flowers, where the roses are in bloom all the year around, and the bees could be seen in vast numbers in the pepper-trees towards the middle of December. At this same time of the year the people could be seen before sunrise in the mornings sitting in the parks reading the papers.

There was one thing which Prof. Cook's article, on page 880 (1905), brought out very forcibly. That was the absence of honey on the tables in England, Ireland, Scotland, France,

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Belgium, Holland, and Germany. Now, sir, while this undoubtedly is true across the water, yet the same state of affairs exists right in Southern California, for during my stay in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Pasadena, and along the Coast, I did not see even a taste of honey on any of the tables, and only saw it in two grocery windows in Los Angeles. Why is it so? Let someone who knows please solve the problem. Perhaps the people in Europe are all sweet enough without having to eat honey!

Let I should be considered an intruder on your valuable space, I would better call a halt for this time, as you know an uninvited guest sits on thorns. But, sir, invited or uninvited, I regretted very much not to be able to call on the Editor of the American Bee Journal when passing through Chicago.

While I am at it, I must congratulate you on having secured the services of that brilliant young Canadian, Mr. Morley Pettit, to conduct "Canadian Beedom;" and also the excellent portrait and poem of the late Father Langstroth.

W. J. BROWN.

Chard, Ont., Dec. 23, 1905.

Bee-Keeping in Missouri

The honey crop the past year was rather poor in this locality. Too much rain I think was the cause. There was plenty of bloom, but little or no nectar.

The people of this State are just beginning to wake up to the fact that we have a "bonanza" in the products of the "little bee." All that is wanting is to know how to handle them with profit and pleasure.

The Bulletin lately issued by the Missouri State Board of Agriculture, prepared by Mr. R. A. Holekamp, will aid materially in awakening an interest in this now almost neglected industry.

I have been a reader of the American Bee Journal for about 5 years, and I find much valuable information in each issue; in fact, it always contains just such information as every bee-keeper, in addition to the bee-books, needs, and just at the right time.

H. A. SCHOPFENHORST.

Marthasville, Mo., Dec. 18, 1905.

Salt for Curing Bee-Paralysis

Can bee-paralysis be cured? Certainly!

First, kill off all old queens. Then send to some reliable breeder and get a breeding queen. Use the natural or scientific method and re-queen with strong, healthy queens. Place two frames of drone-comb in the center of brood-nest where the breeding queen is, so you will have large, strong drones.

Second, take out all frames from each colony, one at a time. Fill the bottom of the hive $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep with fine table-salt; re-adjust the frames and sprinkle salt down between the frames on the bees. Cover the top box of the frames with salt. When the heat from the bees melts the salt and the wood absorbs the brine, repeat this treatment. Cover the entrance and alighting-board with salt. Cleanse the ground in front of every hive and burn the dead bees. Cleanse the horse-trough, cover the slop-barrels, fill up the hog-wallows, and furnish fresh water for the bees near the apiary. Get some rotten wood and soak it in brine; take it out of the brine and let it dry in the sunshine. Then use it for smoker-fuel.

"Iowa" (page 862), don't put camphor in the hive. Try this old foggy's remedy and report the result. It costs but 5 cents to try it.

The salt on the entrance will kill the bee-moth eggs, and is certain death to the wax-moth when placed on top of the frames. If this remedy will help you, I am amply paid.

Vanduser, Mo.

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CONVENTION NOTICES.

Washington.—The annual meeting of the Washington State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in the old M. E. Church, on Third Street, North Yakima, Wash., Feb. 14, 15 and 16, 1906. An interesting program is assured. One feature will be the illustrated lectures on bee-keeping. Let all bee-keepers in different parts of the State attend and make this an interesting and valuable convention.

VIRGIL SIKES, Sec.

Wisconsin.—The Wisconsin State Bee-Keepers' Association will meet in annual convention at the Capitol, Madison, Feb. 6 and 7. An interesting program is being prepared. Several bee keepers of prominence are preparing papers on subjects of special and general interest, which will be discussed. The Question-Box will, however, be the main feature. One and one-third rate round-trip on all Wisconsin railroads.

GUS DITTMER, Sec.

Augusta, Wis.

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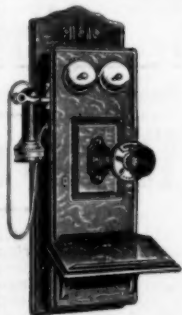
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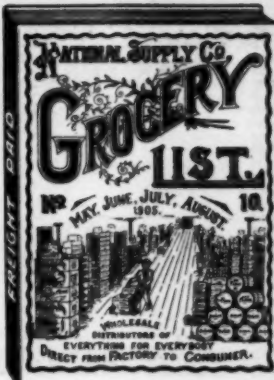
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Honey and Beeswax

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—The market is steady with about the usual demand; the prices range from 14@15c for best grades of white comb honey. There is not an active demand for off grades, which usually sell at 1@3c per pound less. For extracted a steady demand exists for the best grades at 6@7c, but for sour or off flavors there is practically no sale.

R. A. BURNETT & Co.

TOLEDO, Oct. 17.—The honey market remains firm, with good demand, and prices the same as last quotations. Fancy white comb brings 15c; No. 1, 14c; fancy amber, 13c; buckwheat, 13c. Extracted, white clover, in barrels, 6@6½c; amber, in barrels, 5@5½c; in cans, 1c to 1½c higher. Beeswax in good demand, 26c cash, 28c trade.

GRIGGS BROS.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 15.—There is a tendency for higher prices on best grades of honey. The demand for strictly fancy white comb honey exceeds the supply. Demand for lower grades of comb honey not good. Numerous shipments of honey arriving, but no one producer seems to have very great quantities to offer. I quote fancy white at 15@16c; No. 1 in poor demand at 12c, and amber dull at 10c. Best grade extracted brings 8@9c in 60-lb. cans; amber slow at 6c. Beeswax, 30@33c.

WALTER S. POWDER.

DENVER, Nov. 11.—No. 1 white comb honey, per case of 24 sections, \$3.35; No. 1 light amber, \$3.00; No. 2, \$2.50@3.00. Extracted honey, 6½@7 cts. per pound. Supply is light and we could make quick sales of consignments at above figures. We pay 24c for clean, yellow beeswax delivered here.

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NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The demand is fairly good for better grades of white, and while the near by crop is fairly well cleaned up, new arrivals are now coming in from Cuba, besides several cars have been shipped on from California. We quote fancy white at 15c; No. 1, 13@14c; No. 2, 12c; amber, 11c; buckwheat, 10@11c. Extracted in fairly good demand, especially California, of which there is abundant supply. We quote white sage, 6½@7½c; light

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amber at 6@7c, according to quantity; buckwheat at 6c per pound; Southern at 50@60c per gallon, according to quality. Beeswax steady at 29@31c.

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CINCINNATI, Jan. 20.—The honey market is quiet. We do not offer white clover extracted honey on account of its scarcity; instead offer a fancy water-white honey, equal to if not better than the white clover, in 60-lb. cans, two in a crate, at 7½@8½c; fancy light amber, 7½c; other grades of amber in barrels at 5½@6½c, according to the quality. Fancy comb honey, 16½c.

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KANSAS CITY, Jan. 22.—The market here on honey is very dull now, as it always is this time of year; fancy white is selling at \$3.00 per case; 24-section and amber is selling at \$2.75. Extracted, 5½@6c. Beeswax, 25c per pound.

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CINCINNATI, Jan. 23.—The nice weather holds back the demand for comb honey. Crops seem to be exceedingly short and producers in the West keep the prices high. We quote as follows: Fancy water-white and No. 1 white clover, 14@16c; No. 2, 12@14c. Extracted seems to be more plentiful, and we quote same in barrels, 5½@5¾c; in cans, ¼c more; white clover, 7@8c. Beeswax, 28@30c.

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